

**Business Area # 9:**  
**Porter Square/ North**  
**Cambridge**

**Boundaries:** bordered by the B&M Railroad, Alewife Brook Parkway, and the Somerville Line

Major areas of Business/Retail/ Industrial concentrations include: all retail and commercial establishments between 1840 Massachusetts Avenue and the Arlington line, including Porter Square Mall. All commercial properties along Rindge and Sherman to the border of the RR tracks.



*Porter Square*

There were a series of **Commercial burglaries** in the 1800-1900 section of Mass. Ave. in 2005. Most of these breaks were to restaurants and constructions sites. Restaurants, such as Christopher's on Massachusetts Avenue, were targeted throughout the year by professional thieves stealing safes. Construction sites also reported multiple thefts of tools or equipment. There continues to be breaks into schools in this area resulting in computers, cell phones, and DVDs being stolen. • In the first quarter of the year a Boston man was suspected of robbing the Century Bank on Mass. Ave. The robber was a professional note-passer indicating he had a gun and fleeing with \$2000 cash towards Somerville. A pattern of several **commercial robberies** were reported at convenience stores by masked armed robbers. Some of the investigations into these incidents were aided by good suspect descriptions and video surveillance. • No counterfeiting incidents were reported in Porter Square in 2005. Three out of the four flim flam incidents reported were internet related. In one incident the victim was contacted by someone posing as a Paypal representative, who then tried to use his information fraudulently. A significant amount of fraud in 2005 involved identity theft and forged checks. In one incident of identity theft an unknown suspect used a victim's information to obtain a \$12,000 car loan. Forging checks was another means for fraud this year. Several of these incidents were checks lost or stolen from victims and used without their knowledge. • Most of the **shoplifting** incidents were reported at the Porter Square Star Market, where 14 arrests were made in 2005. • **Larceny from person** decreased significantly, 48%, from 2004. These varied from items left unattended while shopping, to those taken from a diner's area. • Many of the reported **larcenies from building** were larcenies from private offices, construction sites, and items left unattended. The most commonly targeted property in these incidents was wallets and purses.

CRIME	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Larceny from Building	23	37	31	37	36
Larceny from Person	28	24	15	23	12
Commercial Burglary	15	15	13	6	16
Commercial Robbery	3	4	5	6	10
Shoplifting	27	31	19	31	31
Fraud/Flim Flam/Counterfeiting	26	34	36	33	35